Corporatisation of Agriculture

176. SHRI SATISH PRADHAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news article which appeared in the Indian Express dated the 9th January, 2002, under the caption, "Our future is in the forests-corporatisation of agriculture, as some think tanks suggest, will completely ravage our economy"; and

(b) if so, what is Government's response thereto and what corrective steps have been taken or are proposed to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Government is encouraging afforestation through various schemes in forestry, agro-forestry and social forestry. National Forestry Action Plan envisages *inter-alia* protection of existing forests, improving forest productivity, institutional strengthening and capacity building. The emphasis is also on development of non wood forests. There is no tax levied by the Central Government on non-timber forest produce. The Ministry of Environment and Forests is also promoting participatory forest management and there is no bar for the Joint Forest Management Committee to enter into the contracts with those who can sell.

Pending Agricultural Projects of Gujarat

177. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether certain Comprehensive Agriculture Development Projects of Gujarat like Ecological Restoration, Reclamation of Alkali Soil, Coastal Salinity Ingress Prevention Scheme are pending with the Ministry;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor; and

(c) by when these projects are likely to be cleared?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Project proposal on "Ecological Restoration through Integrated Development Programme in Saraswati and Shetrunji river basin" of Gujarat State has been forwarded to Department of Economic Affairs, Ministry of Finance with recommendation to

consider the project for financial assistance under Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC).

The revised project proposals on "Reclamation of Alkali Soil in Gujarat State" and "Pilot Project for Prevention of Salinity Ingress in Coastal Areas of Saurashtra", have been examined and recommended to Planning Commision for their consideration.

Increasing the minimum support price for TUR

178. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) what is the minimum support price fixed by Government per quintal for Tur grown in Karnataka;

(b) whether the Karnataka Government has sought hike in the minimum support price for Tur; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action, if any, taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) The minimum support price (MSP) fixed by the Government for Tur is Rs. 1320 per quintal for the Kharif Marketing Year 2001-02. The MSP fixed by the Government is applicable throughout the country.

(b) and (c) The MSP of Tur for the year 2001-02 has been fixed by the Government on the basis of the recommendations made by the Commission for Agricultural Coasts & Prices (CACP). While finalizing its recommendations on price policy, the CACP takes into consideration several factors like cost of production, demand and supply, etc. The CACP had recommended the MSP of Tur @ Rs. 1320 per quintal, though the State Government of Karnataka suggested the MSP @ Rs. 2285 per quintal. After taking into account the recommendation made by the CACP, views of State Governments and concerned Central Ministries as well as other factors considered important for price fixation, the Government accepted the recommendations made by the CACP.

Financial Assistance to Karnataka for drought

179. SHRI K.C. KONDAIAH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount sanctioned/released by Government to Karnataka to take